

SOME *ANTHRIBIDAE* FROM TROPICAL AFRICA.

BY DR. KARL JORDAN.

(With one text-figure.)

1. *Mecocerus gratus* spec. nov.

♂♀. Fossa dorsalis rostri profunda; tarsorum segmentum secundum griseum; maris fovea metasternalis lanata magna; rostri vitta mediana grisea in capite divisa utrinque trans occiput continuata; elytra fascia basali, macula elongata oblique antemediana atque fascia transversa angusta postmediana griseis notata.

Long. (cap. excl.) 9–10 mm.

Hab. Belgian Congo: Sankuru, Komi, vii. 1928, ii. and vii. 1930 (J. Ghesquière), 2 pairs.—Type in Musée du Congo Belge.

In structure closely agreeing with *M. elathratus* Jord. 1903. The grey pubescence of the proboscis continued across occiput along eyes, not in middle as in several other small African species of the genus. On pronotum a transverse row of six buff or grey spots, the two dorsal ones enlarged forward as a short stripe, the two stripes converging anteriorly; before scutellum a larger buff spot. On elytra a basal transverse band, curved back at sides, reaching lateral margin behind shoulder, from near, or from, the lateral portion of this band towards middle of suture an oblique streak, and a narrow, straight, transverse band before apical declivity buff or grey, as are also some variable spots in basal and apical areas, no dots in median area.

On underside, a spot behind forecoxa and a vestige of a spot before coxa, a streak on mesepisternum (more or less interrupted), a transverse lateral spot posteriorly on metasternite, and the apical margin of the abdominal segments buff or grey. Tibiae and tarsi grey.

2. *Syntophoderes simplicipes* spec. nov.

♂♀. *S. guineensi* Kolbe 1895 simillimus, major, tibia media maris inermi.

Long. (cap. excl.) 10–11 mm.

Hab. Belgian Congo: Buta, type (S. M. Reine Elizabeth); Barumbu, viii. 1925 (J. Ghesquière); Sankuru, Komi, iv. 1930 (J. Ghesquière); Aruwimi, Bomili, viii. 1926 (Eng. Bock); 4 ♂♂.—Type in Musée du Congo Belge.

So similar to *S. guineensis* that I have hitherto overlooked the differences. Whereas in the ♂♂ of the other species the midtibia bears a prominent apical tooth, it is simple in the new species. This difference is corroborated by the genitalia: pygidium as short as in *S. guineensis*, but the hypopygidium decidedly broader than in that species. ♀ as in *S. guineensis*.

3. *Syntophoderes phrator* spec. nov.

♂♀. Etiam simillimus *S. guineensi*, fronte capitis antice paululo angustiore; pygidio atque segmento quinto abdominali longiore; hypopygidio multo angustiore, acuto, apice subhamato.

Long. 6–12 mm.

Hab. Belgian Congo : various places ; also Gaboon and Cameroon ; type : Butu, Belgian Congo.

In structure similar to *S. sparsilis* Jord. 1913, but in colouring more like *S. guineensis*. Frons anteriorly a little narrower than in those species. In ♂ the pygidium and last (external) abdominal sternite longer than in *S. guineensis*, this sternite being in centre as long as the two preceding ones together ; hypopygidium narrow, its tergite forming a hook, and its sternite being long, sharply pointed with the sides strongly chitinized and straight.

4. *Anthribus ornaticollis* spec. nov.

♂♀. *A. subpenicillato* Thoms. 1858 similis, elytris tuberculo subapicali instructis, maris segmento primo tarsorum mediorum dente acuto armato.

Length : 8–12 mm.

Hab. West Africa : Kuilu, French Congo ; also Kasai R. and Cameroon.

Among the *Anthribidae* of the Carnegie Museum collected at Efulen, Cameroon, by H. L. Weber, there are specimens of both sexes of two species of *Anthribus* (sensu Latreille, Schönherr, Lacordaire) with a transverse row of prominent tufts on the pronotum as in *A. subpenicillatus* Thoms. 1858. On comparing the specimens with Thomson's description I find that the insect I have hitherto looked upon as being *A. subpenicillatus* agrees less well with the description than does the second species now seen for the first time.

♂♀. Pubescent cinnamon, proboscis, diffuse and ill-defined spots on head and elytra, the pronotum except a large apical dorsal area, base of elytra and the median sutural area pearl grey, a transverse area on pronotum inclusive of tufts ferruginous, variegated with pearl grey, base of elytra, middle of sutural area, apex and pygidium more or less shaded with ferruginous. Tufts of pronotum and basal one of elytrum very prominent ; a row of five tufts on elytrum, the second placed in the cinnamon antemedian area creamy white, a similar white tuft behind, and forming part of, first as well as fifth tuft ; on apical declivity a rather prominent projection. Underside medianly grey, apex of abdomen more or less ferruginous ; apical margin of second abdominal sternite not straight, but distinctly curved backward, in ♂ the segment flattened in middle, slightly impressed apically, with an apical tubercle, which is not median, but is placed a little towards the left side. First midtarsal segment of ♂ nearly as long as II to IV together, its apex widened on the outer side (away from body) into a sharp conical tooth.

5. *Zygaenodes auritus* spec. nov. (text-fig. 1, ♂).

♂♀. *Z. monstroso* Pasc. 1860 simillimus, rostro parum latiore, maris segmento tertio fortissime dilatato.

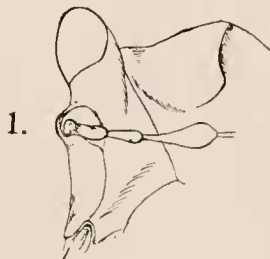
Long. 3·7–4·0 mm.

Hab. Belgian Congo : Sankuru, iv. 1925, type, and Kassai, ix. and xi. 1921 (lt. Ghesquière), 2 ♂♂, 2 ♀♀.—Type in Musée du Congo Belge.

Eye obliquely sinuate as in *Z. monstrosus*, in ♂ the sinus almost effaced, the frontal angle of the eye sharp and projecting, the ventral angle very obtuse and rounded off, in ♀ the sinus a little more distinct, but also oblique, the upper

angle projecting farther forward than the ventral angle (in *Z. quadrituberculatus* Fährs. 1871 the sinus is symmetrical). Segment III of antenna of ♂ more strongly dilated in apical half than even in ♂ of *Z. quadrituberculatus*, narrow at base, gradually widening to middle, then more suddenly expanding, being about three times as long as broad, and much broader than segment I.

In colouring, and in the shape and structure of the thorax and elytra, there is no difference from *Z. monstrosus*, except that the four specimens of the new species are somewhat darker (which may be due to discoloration). The ♀ does not seem to be distinguishable except by being more robust and having an apically somewhat broader proboscis.



6. *Epicerastes adustus* spec. nov.

♀. Niger, supra tomento russato, infra griseo tectus; elytris duabus fasciis latis (ante et post medium positis) atque macula magna humerali griseis; tarsis atris, segmento primo apice excepto griseo-albo. Antenna elytrorum medium haud superans; segmentum secundum paululo brevius quam primum.

Long. 7–8 mm.

Hab. Cameroon: Efulen, October–November 1913 (H. L. Weber), 3 ♀♀, type in Carnegie Museum.—Belgian Congo: Mayumbe (R. Mayné).

The short antenna with the second segment long, the black second tarsal segment and the russet upperside are a combination of characters by which this species is easily recognized.

An elongate spot in centre of frons, the border of the eye, an apical median spot and several lateral ones on pronotum and dots at the sides and apex of elytra russet, more or less shaded or centred with grey, an indication of a short median stripe from carina forward and some tomentum in front of the carina grey; on elytra a large antemedian patch and a narrower postmedian one, both extending across suture to fifth line of punctures and connected with each other at suture, and a large shoulder-patch grey; a broad median ring on tibiae greyish white; pubescence of underside of body grey, somewhat sparse, not concealing structure of derm.

Base of proboscis concave in between the curved carinae. Segment I of antenna one-sixth longer than II (curved base of I excluded), IX very little longer than II, as long as VIII, but much thicker; derm of all the segments black, but III to IX pubescent white except apices. Pronotum with deep impression before carina and an indication of a longitudinal impression each side of raised centre; dorsal carina nearly straight, dorsal carinula nearer to basal edge than to carina. Elytra depressed before middle, subbasal swelling distinct, alternate interspaces convex, especially third. Pygidium russet, with a little grey. Centre of prosternum coarsely punctured like sides; abdominal segments II and III with large punctures on lateral area.

7. *Epicerastes muscosus* spec. nov.

♂♀. Pube olivacea obtectus, nigro-variegatus; ♂ segmento secundo antennarum latitudine plus triplo longiore; segmento secundo tarsorum nigro; pronoto antice prosticeque impresso; elytris ante medium depressis.

Long. 7-9 mm. (cap. excl.).

Hab. Cameroon: Lolodorf (L. Conradt, 1895), type ♂; in Mus. Pittsburgh a series of both sexes from Efulen (H. J. Weber) and one ♀ from Lolodorf (J. A. Reis).

Black, pubescent olive or olive-grey, middle of underside grey; pubescence somewhat condensed at sides of occiput, in middle of apex of pronotum and sometimes as an indistinct antemedian spot on sides of pronotum; elytra variegated with black, a linear median mark in third interspace being especially prominent, sometimes the subbasal, median and subapical black spots more numerous and enlarged, forming three zones variegated with olive, interspaces VII and IX with black dots. Base and middle of tibiae (also their undersides) and basal two-thirds of first tarsal segment greyish white.

Segment II of antenna one-fourth shorter than I (curved base of I excluded). Eye slightly oblique, a very little over one-third longer than its distance from base of mandible. Pronotum impressed anteriorly and posteriorly and very slightly each side of middle; dorsal carina almost straight (apart from the even lateral curve forward-downward), interrupted in middle or nearly.

Elytra depressed before middle, subbasal swelling distinct, higher than the suture, third interspace more convex than the others.

8. *Epicerastes exstans* spec. nov.

♂♀. Segmentum secundum antennarum longum, tarsorum album. *E. muscoso* simillimus, pronoto levius ac elytris apice fortius impressis.

Long. 8-9 mm.

Hab. Belgian Congo: Kondué (Ed. Luja), one pair.

Apart from the white second tarsal segment, the colouring is the same as in *E. muscosus*. The depressions on the pronotum are less distinct and the oblique creamy ridge ending at apical sutural angle of the elytra is higher, the impression between it and suture distinct.

9. *Epicerastes latimanus* spec. nov.

♂. *E. dorsalis* similis, magis elongatus, supra indumento olivaceo tectus; ab omnibus speciebus huius generis differt tarsorum segmentis secundo et tertio latoribus.

Long. 10 mm.

Hab. Nyasaland: Zomba, Upper Shiré R., 3,000 ft., x.-xii. 1895 (Dr. P. Rendall), 1 ♂.

More uniformly greyish olive than *E. dorsalis* Kolbe 1895, the colour of the pubescence of the elytra dorsally the same as laterally. Elytra longer than in *E. dorsalis*, dorsally more flattened. Pygidium likewise longer. Prosternum less coarsely rugate-punctate, with a transverse depression between coxae and anterior margin. Eye double as long as its distance from base of mandible. Tarsal segments II and III broader than in any other known species, II white as in *E. dorsalis*, measured along centre and across middle of apical margin not quite twice as long as broad.

10. *Epicerastes musculus* spec. nov.

♂♀. *E. prominulo* Jord. 1922 statura et colore simillimus. Oculus brevior et minus prominens. Maris tibia media absque dente apicali.

Long. (cap. excl.) 3.3-3.6 mm.

Hab. Cameroon: Johann-Albrechtshöhe (L. Conradt), 1 ♂, 3 ♀♀.

Rufous brown, variegated with grey pubescence, which varies somewhat in distribution and does not form a definite pattern; on pronotum five indefinite rufous patches; antenna and tibiae uniformly rufous.

Proboscis with median carina, but the depressions in which the antennal grooves are situated not bounded by a carina. Eye very little longer than broad. Antenna extending beyond pygidium in both sexes, segment II about half as long again as broad, X at least twice as long as broad. Pronotum evenly and moderately convex, without distinct impressions, densely covered with umbilicate punctures; carina evenly curved from side to side. Elytra feebly depressed before middle, a little over two-thirds longer than broad, subbasal swelling indicated, interspaces slightly convex, third not higher than the others, basal margin as in *E. prominulus*, less raised than in the other species of the genus. As in *E. prominulus*, abdominal segment I of ♂ without tufted groove, but in contrast to the ♂ of that species I to III not flattened and IV and V only feebly so. Mesosternal process somewhat broader than in *E. prominulus*.

Epicerastes Kolbe 1895, *Ent. Zeit. Stettin*, lv. p. 385 (1894, published 1895) is known only from Tropical Africa. I select as genotype *E. convexicollis* Kolbe 1895.

KEY TO THE SPECIES OF *EPICERASTES*

- a. Segment II of tarsi black, at most with indication of white pubescence b
 Segment II of tarsi white e
- b. Disc of pronotum feebly depressed before carina, no distinct median callosity c
 Disc of pronotum conspicuously depressed before carina, a distinct median callosity d
- c. Proboscis with dorso-lateral yellowish grey stripe *E. undulatus* Qued. 1886
 Proboscis uniformly pubescent *E. convexicollis* Kolbe 1895
- d. Upperside greyish olive *E. mucosus*, cf. p. 307
 Frons, pronotum and sides of elytra more or less russet; antenna of ♀ reaching to middle of elytra *E. adustus*, cf. p. 307
- e. Antennal segment II at least three times as long as broad
E. exstans, cf. p. 308
 Antennal segment II much less than three times as long as broad f
- f. Pronotum without distinct median callosity, impressions on disc vestigial g
 Pronotum with distinct median callosity (or tubercle) k
- g. Upperside dark brown, with a few definite whitish grey spots, especially conspicuous in third interspace of elytra *E. pygidialis* Jord. 1894
 Upperside more or less olive or grey h
- h. Eye elliptical, longitudinal i
 Eye more ovate, placed obliquely, apical median spot of pronotum large
E. subcostatus Qued. 1886
- i. Pronotal carina evenly curved; ♂ without round tufted groove on first abdominal segment j
 Transverse carina almost straight *E. costiger* Kolbe 1895

- j. Apex of mesosternal process almost pointed ; midtibia of ♂ with pointed apical tooth ; abdomen of ♂ depressed in middle from base to apex
E. prominulus Jord. 1922
 Apex of mesosternal process round ; midtibia of ♂ without apical tooth ; abdomen of ♂ not depressed in middle *E. musculus*, cf. p. 308
- k. Tarsal segment II more strongly dilated than in any other known species
E. latimanus, cf. p. 308
 Tarsal segment II normal 1
- l. Elytra with subbasal callosity high *E. sericans* Kolbe 1895
 Elytra with subbasal callosity vestigial, not tuberculiform ; in antemedian depression of elytra a greyish white patch, usually more or less extended backwards at suture m
- m. Grey antemedian patch of elytra extended forward towards shoulders
E. albinus Jord. 1894
 Grey antemedian patch anteriorly straight *E. dorsalis* Kolbe 1895
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